IN THE CLAIMS:

Please cancel claims 1-3 without prejudice or disclaimer and add new claims 4-26 as shown in the following LISTING OF CLAIMS.

Claims 1-3 (cancelled)

Claim 4 (new): A differential unit for a motor vehicle for transmitting a driving force to a pair of driving wheels while absorbing a rotational difference therebetween, comprising:

a case;

a differential mechanism accommodated in the case;

a drive pinion shaft for transmitting the driving force to the differential mechanism, said drive pinion shaft rotatably supported in the case with at least two bearings having an inner race, respectively;

a tubular spacer having an inner diameter larger than an outer diameter of the drive pinion shaft, said spacer interposed between the inner races of the bearings such that the spacer covers the drive pinion shaft; and

radial position regulating means for regulating a radial position of the spacer relative to the drive pinion shaft, said means provided between an inner surface of the spacer and an outer surface of the drive pinion shaft.

Claim 5 (new): The differential unit according to claim 4, wherein said radial position regulating means comprises at least one projection provided on the inner surface of the spacer as a ring, said ring extending in a circumferential direction of the spacer and having an inner diameter not less than an outer diameter of the drive pinion shaft.

Claim 6 (new): The differential unit according to claim 5, wherein an inner surface of the ring has an arched shape when viewed in a cross section of the ring.

Claim 7 (new): The differential unit according to claim 4, wherein said radial position regulating means comprises a plurality of projections formed on the inner surface of the space to project in a radial direction of the spacer and spaced apart at equal intervals in a circumferential direction of the spacer.

Claim 8 (new): The differential unit according to claim 4, wherein said radial position regulating means comprises three projections formed on the inner surface of the spacer respectively, and spaced apart by 120 degrees in the circumferential direction.

Claim 9 (new): The differential unit according to claim 4, wherein said radial position regulating means comprises four projections formed on the inner surface of the spacer, and spaced apart by 90 degrees in the circumferential direction.

Claim 10 (new): The differential unit according to claim 4, wherein said radial position regulating means comprises a ring made of rubber.

Claim 11 (new): The differential unit according to claim 5, wherein said ring is an O-ring.

Claim 12 (new): The differential unit according to claim 4, wherein said radial position regulating means comprises a ring made of metal, said ring having an inner diameter not less than the outer diameter of the drive pinion shaft.

Claim 13 (new): The differential unit according to claim 5, wherein said ring having an outer diameter not larger than the inner diameter of the spacer.

Claim 14 (new): The differential unit according to claim 7, wherein said projections are disposed in a vicinity of both longitudinal ends of the spacer.

Claim 15 (new): The differential unit according to claim 8, wherein said projections are disposed in a vicinity of both longitudinal ends of the spacer.

Claim 16 (new): The differential unit according to claim 9, wherein said projections are disposed in a vicinity of both longitudinal ends of the spacer.

Claim 17 (new): The differential unit according to claim 7, wherein said projections are disposed at a central position along a longitudinal axis of the spacer.

Claim 18 (new): The differential unit according to claim 8, wherein said projections are disposed at a central position along a longitudinal axis of the spacer.

Claim 19 (new): The differential unit according to claim 9, wherein said projections are disposed at a central position along a longitudinal axis of the spacer.

Claim 20 (new): The differential unit according to claim 5, wherein said at least one projection is integrally formed on the inner surface of the spacer.

Claim 21 (new): The differential unit according to claim 4, wherein said at least on projection is provided as a separate component relative to said spacer.

Claim 22 (new): A differential unit provided in a driving system of a vehicle for changing a direction of driving force to a right angle thereto and for differentiating said driving force between a drive pinion shaft and another drive pinion shaft with at least two bearings for supporting said drive pinion shaft in a differential carrier, comprising:

a spacer interposed between said bearing for restricting an installing position of said bearings in a lengthwise direction of said drive pinion shaft; and

a protrusion integrally formed on an inner cylindrical surface of said spacer for touching an outer tubular surface of said drive pinion shaft so as to prevent a vibration due to radius clearance therebetween and to decrease an unbalance against said drive pinion shaft.

Claim 23 (new): A differential unit for a motor vehicle for transmitting a driving force to a pair of driving wheels while absorbing a rotational difference therebetween, comprising:

a case;

a differential mechanism accommodated in the case;

a drive pinion shaft for transmitting the driving force to the differential mechanism, said drive pinion shaft rotatably supported in the case with at least two bearings having an inner race, respectively;

a tubular spacer having an inner diameter larger than an outer diameter of the drive pinion shaft, said spacer interposed between the inner races of the bearings such that the spacer covers the drive pinion shaft; and

a radial positioner, said radial positioner extending about said drive pinion shaft and being provided between an inner surface of the spacer and an outer surface of said drive pinion shaft, whereby a radial position of the spacer relative to the drive pinion shaft is regulated.

Claim 24 (new): The differential unit according to claim 23, wherein said positioner comprises a projection that is integrally formed with said spacer as to represent a monolithic unit comprised of said spacer and projection.

Claim 25 (new): The differential unit according to claim 24, wherein said projection is a continuous annular projection.

Claim 26 (new): The differential unit according to claim 23, wherein there are a plurality of positioners extending about said drive pinion shaft and positioned between an inner surface of said spacer and the outer surface of said drive pinion shaft, and a pair of said positioners being axially separated along said pinion drive shaft.